

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07071 041640Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1391
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KABUL
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7071

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: IN, OVIP (ROCKEFELLER)
SUBJECT: GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI

1. GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER VISITED WITH PM DESAI IN HIS RESIDENCE FOR 45 MINUTES THIS MORNING. THE GOVERNOR WAS WARMLY RECEIVED, AND HE AND THE PM EASILY FOUND A COMMON WAVE LENGTH. THE PM SPOKE AS USUAL IN TERMS OF HIS NOW WELL-KNOWN MORAL PRINCIPLES. SPECIFIC TOPICS TOUCHED ON INCLUDED THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, ITS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STABILITY OF THE SUBCONTINENT, THE EVIDENT CONCERNS OF PAKISTAN AND IRAN ON THIS SCORE, INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., THE U.S.S.R., AND CHINA. NOTHING REALLY NEW EMERGED.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER TURNED ASIDE A REFERENCE BY THE GOVERNOR TO NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES BY SPEAKING OF THE NEED OF THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R. TO REDUCE THEIR MUTUAL SUSPICION. HE ALSO SPOKE OF INDIA'S DESIRE AND EFFORT TO BE IN GOOD TERMS WITH BOTH OF THEM, WITHOUT THEIR BEING ANY PRESUMPTION THAT IT SHOULD BE DEPENDENT
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ON EITHER OF THEM.

3. WITH RESPECT TO AFGHANISTAN, THE PM THINKS IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY, RATHER THAN THE MILITARY, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP AND IS NOW IN CHARGE. HE SEEMS TO EXPECT THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBLE CHALLENGERS. BUT HE SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS

MADE A POINT OF THE HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA AND HAS EMPHASIZED TO THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR ITS COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT. THE PM ALSO RECOGNIZED THE PARTICULAR FEARS RAISED BY THE COUP IN PAKISTAN AND IRAN. HE IS GRATIFIED AT THE EXTENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES, AND HE AGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S APPRAISAL OF GENERAL ZIA AS A GOOD MAN AND A PERSON COMMITTED TO THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN. HE ALSO STRESSED HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATION WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO CHINA, THE PM SAID HE HAD MANAGED TO CONVINCE THE RUSSIANS THAT AN IMPROVEMENT OF INDO-SINO RELATIONS WAS NOT AIMED (BY INDIA) AGAINST RUSSIA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO THE CHINESE THAT FULL FRIENDSHIP COULD NOT BE RESOTRED WHILE THE CHINESE HELD 20,000 SQUARE MILES OF INDIAN TERRITORY, BUT THAT HE HAD ALSO ASSURED THEM THAT HE FELT THAT PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. WITH RESPECT TO TAIWAN, HE REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID TO PRESIDENT CARTER--NAMELY, THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR THE USA TO TURN ITS BACK ON A FIREND.
GOHEEN

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